

PINK BOLLWORM PROGRAM – WEEKLY REPORT

41 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COTTON GROWERS



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Pink Bollworm Activities

Southern California:

Native Pink Bollworm (PBW) captures remained low this past week. There was only 1 native PBW captured in Imperial County. Compared to the 5,547 caught during the same week in 2007, this is a 99.98% decrease. The Blythe/Palo Verde Valley traps yielded 19 native PBW. Compared to the 7,305 captured during the same week in 2007, this is a 99.74% decrease. Mexico has stopped deliveries of irrigation water to Mexican cotton growers. Historically, a mass migration of PBW moths to the north occurs when the water is cut off. The traps along the All American Canal and Interstate I-8 at the southern end of Imperial County serve to monitor this influx. It is expected that this migration will be significantly lower than in previous years due to eradication efforts in the cotton growing areas of northern Mexico.

San Joaquin Valley:

A total of 6,992,374 sterile moths were released this week, bringing the season total to 132,075,390. This is a moderate drop in the daily average release rate and is due to some minor production issues at the Phoenix Sterile Insect Rearing Facility. This average release rate of one (1) million moths per day is well within Program protocol levels.

The Shafter Identification Lab examined 348 traps containing 6,888 sterile moths in traps from Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, and Merced Counties. There were three natives trapped this week. The first was a repeat of finds number 2 through 5 and #9 in Merced County near Dos Palos. The second and third were repeats of finds 7 & 8 in Fresno County near Mendota. Aerial releases of sterile pink bollworm moths are being conducted over the native find fields in Fresno and Merced County. Due to the lengthy distance from the Shafter Airport, flights are made just one day a week. Therefore, the aircraft releases six times the normal daily rate on this one day. This insures the required numbers of moths are deposited into these cotton fields needed to maintain a constant “weekly” level of sterile moth control.



Sacramento Valley:

The latest heat unit projections indicate mapping and trapping will begin the first week in September.